NEWSBRIEFS

ATLANTA: Jane Bass of Georgia Earth Alliance led the very first animal rights seminar to be held in Georgia, and at the end of November the same organization led a demonstration against furs and trapping at the Lenox Square shopping center. Both events were a great success.

PHOENIX: Rev. Maria Perchuk is temporarily on assignment in Phoenix, helping to establish a new branch of the ministry in that city. Preliminary indications are most positive, including clown visits to Phoenix Children's Hospital.

ACCRA, GHANA: Sister Grace Asare-Djan, head of the ministry in Ghana, writes to report excellent progress on the small clinic she is building in a village outside Accra. She says, "The village folks visit me daily with health problems and I believe my unfailing God will help me to help them." Amen, Grace.

She also relates an extraordinary incident, which ended in a healing, as follows: "This morning just in front of my place a man was lying on the ground with a crowd around him. No one offered any help due to their numerous beliefs. Some thought he was drunk, or dead, or having epileptic fits. I went down to feel his pulse and found him alive. We carried him to my yard, and after asking the Father in prayer to revive him he soon regained consciousness. This man was visiting a juju man (medicine man) when he had a black out in front of my house. After praying with him he returned to his house

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1987/8

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LETTERS

(The Ruby S. Thomas school is a regular elementary school with a special section for hearing-impaired children, who Daffydil visits.)

Thank you so much for your caring and generous spirit. The children enjoyed "Daffydil" so much. They were indeed thrilled. As a substitute teacher I was pleased to see the real spirit of Christmas - love - come to light. Thank you.

Mrs. Babcock
Ruby S. Thomas School

Dear Daffydil,

Thanky you so much for coming to see us, and I really liked it when you let us blow out the light, combed our hair, shook our hands untied the rope, changed colors on the handkerchiefs, and made pictures appear and disappear.

Love.
Sherry Hall, Student
Ruby S. Thomas School

Dear Daffydil,

Thank you so much for coming to see us, and for the gifts you gave us. I really liked it when you made pictures appear and disappear.

Love.
Jeremy, Student
Ruby S. Thomas School

Matthew Gartenlaub,

Thank you for bringing your pets for our Pet Therapy each month. I know all the smiles on the patients faces are rewarding when you visit, but we thank you for taking the time to come see us.

Henderson Convalescent
Hospital Newsletter

NEWSBRIEFS

THANK YOU: Our deepest thanks to all of you, who have responded to our annual appeal. It is always especially valuable to receive your gifts at this time because of the enormous workload and expense at this time of year. For those of you, who have not responded . . . it's never too late!!

From all of us, please accept our prayers and our very best wishes for a very fulfilling, and prosperous 1988.

LOCAL

Lilac is shown shaking hands with ex-Governor Michael O'Callaghan at Nevada Association for the Handicapped on the occasion of the inauguration of their new wing, named after the Governor.

CLOWN MINISTRY: As we mentioned last issue, the arrival of "Daffydil" (Rev. Nathania Gartman) has enabled us to yet further expand our outreach. New institutions visited include Handicare, a day-care center that accepts handicapped children and also cares for some toddlers and handicapped children under the auspices of Child Haven; Vegas House, a combination residential/dayschool rehabilitation facility for troubled teenage boys; National Kids Kampus, Children's Behavioral Services, Helen J. Stewart, plus additional visits to Child Haven. Daffydil, who has done much work with the deaf and is able to 'sign', visited the deaf elementary and pre-school children for a Christmas program. Many of the children were familiar with her from their weekly skating program, and when she walked into the room all the children 'signed', "The skating clown is here!"

Photos: Sunrise Hospital

Daffydil, and her puppet, "Sparkles," bring joy and toys to this young lady in Sunrise.

As we go to press Christmas activities are in full swing, and since the last issue Halloween and Thanksgiving have come and gone with their attendant activities. It sure is a busy time of year!!!

Recently a young man approached "Lilac" (Rev. Grace Michaels) on the street. "Remember me?" he asked and proceeded to explain that he was now 9 months straight (drug free) and was working steadily in a responsible job. He thanked her for her visits to Fitz House saying, "At the time I didn't understand how helpful the face painting could be, but now I realize that it helped us to drop some of the other masks we were wearing. It was really therapeutic."

At a local abuse shelter Lilac was playing a music sing-along for a group of toddlers. They all started bouncing against the back of the couch they were sitting on in time to the music, a sort of baby dance! They were all grinning at each other as if the had just discovered cooperation and could now do something bigger than any one of them could do alone! At goodbye hug time one small one came back for seconds. A staff member commented that he had two years of hugs to catch up on . . .

A special thank-you to Haxboro Toys, Dale Zamzow of the U.S. Bear Force, and Ron Brown of Reno for the generous donations of Christmas toys. One little girl at the abuse shelter hugged her new soft teddy bear as if it was the first thing she could truly love, which perhaps it was . . . Thank you all for the joy you help us bring to the children. Our special thanks also to Mrs. Russel for some very professional sewing, and to Debbie Bravo, a new volunteer, who went with Lilac and Cookie (Rev. Rafael de Peyer) to University Medical Center and showed an immediate affinity for the children's moods and needs.

Photos: Rev. Marta Perchuk

Lilac paints this young lady's face at the DDC Halloween party as she reaches out for Constructo's puppet, Drillpress.

At Desert Developmental Center (DDC) Lilac and "Constructo" (Brother Peter Williams), and his puppet, Drillpress, were all on hand to work with and entertain the 400 children at DDC's Halloween party, which included kids from the Lorenzi Park Adaptive Recreation Program, where Constructo visits every week, and Nevada Association for the Handicapped, where likewise Lilac visits. One young man had his face painted at the party only to ask for a repeat when Lilac visited DDC on her regular schedule!

A special reward of this ministry is the feedback we receive from parents or children after the children leave the hospital. A case in point concerns Sherri, a 12 year old, who had suffered a brain hemorrhage resulting in considerable paralysis. Cookie and Lilac had visited Sherri regularly while she was a patient at University Medical Center. After some time Sherri was able to return home, though still suffering from some paralysis. Her mother told us that Sherri was now almost completely recovered with rehabilitative therapy continuing, and told us how much the clowns had meant to Sherri as well as thanking us for our prayers.

PET THERAPY: Rev. Abigail Johns and pet therapists, Teddy and Pippin, were visiting old friends at North Las Vegas Care Center when a new resident wheeled her chair over so that she could pet the dogs. She proceeded to explain how much she loved animals, whereupon, Teddy kissed her hand! She turned to Rev. Johns and said, "See, they know I love them," and wheeled herself off down the hall with a big grin on her face.

Rev. Matthew Gartenlaub, who regularly visits at Henderson Convalescent Center, has been taking some of the kittens we have available for adoption along on his visits. This has proved a big hit with the residents.

ANIMAL ACTION: Because of the tremendous influx of animals into "Best Friends," our Utah animal sanctuary, Revs. Jana de Peyer and Matthew Gartenlaub have been working overtime to find homes in the Las Vegas area with great success. Our special thanks to all new owners, and to you, our Las Vegas readers, we have a lot of dogs and cats looking for a good human! Please apply!

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

CHICAGO: Rev. Raphael de Peyer's annual week-long visit to Chicago went off extremely well, thanks in no small way to the efforts of Christian and Hans Mendenhall. The Circle of Power prayer group and the workshop, "The Gifts of Communication," were lively and well-attended, and aside from these two activities Rev. de Peyer was fully booked for counseling. Catherine Mendenhall, Pauline Schuler and Violet Crowley provided refreshments for the group activities, and our special thanks to all of you, who made the visit so successful.

Photos: Hans Mendenhall

Pauline Schuler, Sue Galick, and Rev. Raphael de Peyer share a very light moment during "The Gift of Communication" workshop in Chicago.

Meanwhile Christian Mendenhall has announced that he will be teaching the communication workshop, "Focus," in the early part of next year. Christian is a fine and experienced teacher, and anyone in the Chicago area wishing to attend will find it a most rewarding experience. For details, please contact Christian at (312) 784-0679, evenings or weekends.